

Treasury Department,

BUREAU OF THE MINT,

Washington, D. C., December 22^d, 1882.

Sir:

I have your letter of the 20th instant, in regard to the coinage of the five-cent nickel piece, and have submitted it to the Secretary. He says he is not willing officially to approve the issue of a new coin not conforming to the requirements of the law as to its devices and inscriptions.

He admitted that there was much force in the reasons you gave for placing the inscription "United States of America" on the obverse instead of the reverse, and that these provisions possibly might be directory and their literal observance not essential, as seemed to have been the construction in the past; but if any

change were made with his sanction he thought the new coin ought to conform to the requirements of the law. I cannot, therefore, with the views he at present entertains, obtain his official sanction to the issue of the coin you propose unless the inscription "United States of America" is placed upon the reverse or the law is modified.

Very respectfully,
Horatio B. Archard
Director

A. Loudon Snowden, Esq.,
Supt. Mint,
Philadelphia.

1177

D. M.

Wash. D. C.

Dec. 22/82

H. C. Burdett

The "Sesig" "Head" can
 - not authorize the coinage
 of the proposed new
 \$4 piece, unless the
 law be complied with,
 & modified, as to the
 inscription to



[Abstract:] The Sec'y. Treas'y. can not authorize the coinage of the proposed new 5¢ piece...
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